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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application number 09/381,742

Filing date 1999-10-13

Examiner: ALVAREZ, RAQUEL

Art unit: 2761

Attorney docket no. GRENPO01NP

EL556131972US

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

This responds to the Office Action dated August 30, 2000.

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 USC sec. 121. Such restriction would be appropriate only if the application had been filed under 35 USC section 111. But this application was filed not under 35 USC sec. 111. It was filed under 35 USC section 371. As such, the Examiner may not impose a Restriction Requirement.

The Restriction Requirement is thus traversed, and applicant requests that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully drawn to the International Search Report in this application (dated December 17, 1998) and the International Preliminary Examination Report (dated April 6, 1999), each prepared by the United States patent and Trademark Office. Neither document shows any lack of unity of invention. The International Search Report shows no references of significance greater than "A" (general state of the art). The International Preliminary Examination Report finds all 168 claims patentable.

It is respectfully suggested that the present application may thus be allowed.

The Examiner is reminded that under 37 CFR section 1.496, last sentence, the Patent Office is obligated to take this application "out of order".

Respectfully submitted,

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